

On page 7, rewrite the 2nd full paragraph so it reads as follows:

The volume solids content (VS) is the dry volume of pigment(s) plus the dry volume of extender(s) plus the dry volume of binder(s). It is calculated using the formula:

$$VS (\%) = \frac{\text{dry volume of pigment(s)} + \text{dry volume of extender(s)} + \text{dry volume of binder(s)}}{\text{total volume of formulation}} \times 100.$$

If additives are present, their volumes are not included in determining the total dry volume.

On page 7, rewrite the 4th full paragraph as follows:

The titanium dioxide volume solids content (TiO₂ VS) is the dry volume of TiO₂ pigment(s) plus the dry volume of extender(s). It is calculated using the formula:

$$TiO_2 VS (\%) = \frac{\text{dry volume of } TiO_2 \text{ pigment(s)}}{\text{total volume of formulation}} \times 100.$$

If additives are present, their volume is not included in determining the total dry volume.

On page 10, rewrite lines 1-4 so they read as follows:

chloride-acrylic, ethylene-vinyl acetate-acrylic, and urethane polymers, optionally containing up to 10% by weight of functional groups (for example, but not limited to, carboxylic acid, phosphate, sulfate, sulfonate, amide and combinations thereof), other non-functional monomers, and mixtures thereof.

In the Claims

Please cancel Claim 3.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, and 4 to 19 so they read as follows:

1. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:

(a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;

(b) about 0.2 to about 20 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified ethylene oxide-urethane polymer (HEUR) thickener selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a HEUR having a C₄-C₁₂ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000,
 - (ii) a HEUR having a C₆-C₃₀ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000, and
 - (iii) combinations thereof,
 - (c) about 1.5 to about 16 lbs/100 gallons of at least one dispersant selected from the group consisting of a maleic acid/diisobutylene copolymer, a butyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, and an acrylic acid/hydroxypropyl acrylate copolymer; and
 - (d) water.
2. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of to about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one interior-grade titanium dioxide;
 - (b) about 0.3 to about 5 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically modified, alkali-soluble emulsion (HASE) thickener having a C₆-C₂₂ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 7,000,000;
 - (c) about 1.8 to about 23 lbs/100 gallons of at least one dispersant selected from the group consisting of a maleic acid/diisobutylene copolymer, a butyl methacrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer, an acrylic acid/hydroxypropyl acrylate copolymer and a polyacrylic acid; and
 - (d) water.
4. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;

- (b) about 2 to about 6 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 10,000,000;
 - (c) about 1.8 to about 23 lbs/100 gallons of at least one polyacrylic acid dispersant; and
 - (d) water.
5. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;
 - (b) about 0.2 to about 10 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 10,000,000;
 - (c) about 2 to about 10 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified ethylene oxide-urethane polymer (HEUR) thickener having a C₄-C₃₀ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000;
 - (d) about 3.0 to about 22.5 lbs/100 gallons of at least one maleic acid/diisobutylene copolymer dispersant; and
 - (e) water.
6. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;
 - (b) about 0.2 to about 10 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 10,000,000;

- (c) about 2 to about 10 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified ethylene oxide-urethane polymer (HEUR) thickener having a C₄-C₃₀ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000, (d) about 0.5 to about 22.5 lbs/100 gallons of at least one acrylic acid/hydroxypropyl acrylate dispersant; and
- (e) water.
7. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;
- (b) about 1 to about 10 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 10,000,000 or a hydrophobically-modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 10,000,000;
- (c) about 0.5 to about 22.5 lbs/100 gallons of at least one acrylic acid/hydroxypropyl acrylate dispersant; and
- (d) water.
8. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;
- (b) about 0.3 to about 5 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified, alkali-soluble or alkali-swellaable emulsion (HASE) thickener having a C₆-C₂₂ hydrophobe and molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 7,000,000;
- (c) about 1.2 to about 45 lbs/100 gallons of at least one polyacrylic acid dispersant; and
- (d) water.

9. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;
 - (b) about 0.5 to about 10 lbs/100 gallons of a hydrophobically-modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose thickener having a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 10,000,000;
 - (c) about 1.2 to about 18 lbs/100 gallons of at least one maleic acid/diisobutylene dispersant; and
 - (d) water.
10. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;
 - (b) about 0.1 to about 3 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified, alkali-soluble or alkali-swellaable emulsion (HASE) thickener having a C₆-C₂₂ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 7,000,000;
 - (c) about 0.6 to about 22.5 lbs/100 gallons of at least one acrylic acid – hydroxypropyl acrylate dispersant; and
 - (d) water.
11. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture having a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one universal-grade titanium dioxide;

- (b) about 0.1 to about 3 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified, alkali-soluble or alkali-swellaable emulsion (HASE) thickener having a C₆-C₂₂ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 7,000,000;
 - (c) about 0.6 to about 45 lbs/100 gallons of at least one maleic acid/diisobutylene copolymer dispersant; and
 - (d) water.
12. A fluid opacifying pigment mixture, a titanium dioxide pigment volume concentration of about 40 to about 100%, a titanium having dioxide volume solids content of at least about 15%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which mixture comprises:
- (a) about 600 to about 1500 lbs/100 gallons of at least one interior-grade titanium dioxide;
 - (b) about 0.2 to about 20 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified ethylene oxide-urethane polymer (HEUR) thickener selected from the group consisting of a HEUR having a C₄-C₁₂ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000, a HEUR having a C₆-C₃₀ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000, and combinations thereof;
 - (c) about 1.2 to about 18 lbs/100 gallons of at least one maleic acid/diisobutylene dispersant; and
 - (d) water.
13. The mixture of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, which further comprises one or more additives selected from the group consisting of a defoamer, a surfactant, a coalescent, a base, a biocide, a mildewcide, a co-dispersant, a polymeric binder, and a voided latex polymer.
14. The mixture of Claim 7, further comprising about 2 to about 12 lbs/100 gallons of at least one hydrophobically-modified ethylene oxide-urethane polymer (HEUR) thickener having a C₄-C₃₀ hydrophobe and a molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 200,000 or at least one clay thickener.

15. The mixture of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12, wherein the pigment volume concentration is about 50 to 100%.
16. The mixture of Claims 15, wherein the pigment volume concentration is about 60 to about 100%.
17. The mixture of Claims 16, wherein the pigment volume concentration is about 70 to about 100%.
18. The mixture of Claims 17, wherein the pigment volume concentration is about 80 to about 100%.
19. The mixture of Claims 18, wherein the pigment volume concentration is about 90 to about 100%.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is presented. A marked-up version showing changes made in the specification and claims is attached.

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Respectfully submitted,

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